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NSC BRIEFING

15 JUNE 1956

AFGHAN KING ILL

- I. In connection with the strain in Pakistani-Afghan relations, the meeting between Mirza and Afghan King Zahir Shah--who was to play host to the Pakistani President on a peace-making state visit beginning next Monday (18-23 June)--has been postponed because of the king's ill-health.
- A. Initial speculation on King Zahir's illness envisioned the possibility of a "diplomatic" affliction of some sort.
- B. However, the Pakistani charge in Kabul has told our Embassy that the illness is genuine (possibly typhoid or typhus) and the King is running a high fever.
- C. The Afghans have suggested "sometime in July" as a new date for this Afghan-Pak "summit" meeting. However, Mirza presently plans to visit Turkey on 15-29 July, and Kabul's summer <sup>social</sup> calendar is also tight. As a result, the Mirza-Zahir conversations may be delayed until late summer.

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